

So, the rule is the rule. This will almost certainly pass. I would just hope that everybody acts as good as they can. I mean, I hate to put it that simply, but this is an important issue.

I respect all the Members of this body. I know they have very different points of view on this. That is to be expected.

Generally, our debates are professional. Generally, that standard is something we are proud of and something that we aspire to. I hate to see it ever lowered or any exception provided.

I also have great confidence in the Speaker's Chair, and I know that they will enforce the appropriate level of civility and decency on the floor.

But, Mr. Speaker, I just ask my fellow Members to please, please think about this, because we have taken a very important safeguard off the rails of debate, so to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my very good friend, the distinguished Republican ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is scary. This is frightening, what is happening.

With less than 1 hour of debate, the Democrats bring a rule to the floor that says this: You can say anything you want about the President of the United States of America, no rules of decorum about what you say about the leader of our country.

In that rule, they say: If you don't wear a mask, you could get fined, no regard to whether you have already had COVID, whether you have had the vaccination. Your mask slips down a little bit, you get fined, in a rule with no debate?

In this rule, they say: To walk on the House floor, you have to go through a metal detector, a Member of the United States Congress walking on the floor to represent three quarters of a million people in our district?

And fourth, the rule is for the bill that says we should tell the Vice President of the United States to work to remove the President of the United States.

I have been here 14 years. I have never seen anything like this. And I do not know where this ends. I do not know where it ends, but it is dangerous where they are taking us.

You couple this with what we are seeing with the cancel culture mob out there, I do not know where this takes us.

I fear for the First Amendment. I fear for the Second Amendment. I fear for the Bill of Rights. I fear for the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know where this takes us, but it is scary what they are throwing in a bill that we are going to debate for less than an hour, making these kinds of changes. I hope they reconsider.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I would inquire if the gentleman has any more speakers.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to urge all of my colleagues to vote "no" on this resolution.

The resolution asks this House to substitute its judgment for the Vice President's in making the grave decision to initiate procedures under section 4 of the 25th Amendment. Under the Constitution, this is a role that belongs exclusively to the Vice President and the Cabinet, not to the House of Representatives. Attempting to usurp this responsibility is not supported by the Constitution and would be a historic overreach.

Members should also take assurance from the Vice President's strong record of sound judgment. Rather than pressuring him into acting, we should be reassured by the knowledge that he would act on this topic as he does on all others in performing his duty, in a manner befitting his constitutional role as Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question and "no" on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, after the chaos and potentially—well, definitely criminal behavior that we saw here last week, there is no trust left between this administration and the majority of the American people.

The stability of our executive branch is a foundational piece of our democracy. This administration has failed or refused to uphold the most basic duties of protecting our Constitution and our national security or of respecting the coequal branches of our government.

Wednesday's bloody attack proved that this administration is an imminent and continuing danger to our country even in the waning days of this Presidency.

I am heartbroken for our country but more determined than ever to fight to preserve our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Vice President PENCE and the Cabinet to do the right thing. I call upon our colleagues to do the right thing: to put our country before the interests of any one man and to join us in ending this failed Presidency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. COLE is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 38

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 275) to establish the National Commission on the Domestic Terrorist Attack Upon the United States Capitol. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be

considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 275.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1932

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE) at 7 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 21, CALLING ON VICE PRESIDENT PENCE TO CONVENE AND MOBILIZE THE CABINET TO ACTIVATE SECTION 4 OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT TO DECLARE PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP INCAPABLE OF EXECUTING THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 38) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 21) calling on Vice President MICHAEL R. PENCE to convene and mobilize the principal officers of the executive departments of the Cabinet to activate section 4 of the 25th Amendment to declare President Donald J. Trump incapable of executing the duties of his office and to immediately exercise powers as acting President; and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 206, not voting 7, as follows: